

such source is apparent, the motion should be denied.” *Sprinpangler v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 759 F. Supp. 1327, 1329 (S.D.Ind. 1991) (citing *Jaffree v. Wallace*, 837 F.2d 1461, 1465 (11th Cir. 1988)).

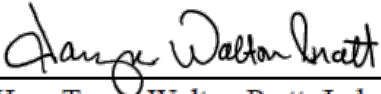
Plaintiff seeks the recusal of the undersigned judge because at a discovery conference the Magistrate Judge cautioned the parties that “Defendant Mike Mills either did or might have an impermissible conflict with the judges of the Southern District, namely Judge Sarah Evans Barker, Judge William T. Lawrence, Judge Jane Magnus, and Senior Judge Larry J. McKinney, since Defendant Mills was employed by the Court.” Noticeably, the undersigned judge is absent from the list of the judges who might have a potential “impermissible conflict.” With this information in hand, Plaintiff states that his counsel made inquiries to the Human Resources director of this Court and he has obtained no information that Defendant Mills is, in fact, an employee of the Court. Moreover, the Court is not familiar with a “Mike Mills” even if he were an employee or past employee in the Southern District of Indiana. Rarely does a judge’s mere acquaintance with a party or witness justify recusal. *United States v. Kehlbeck*, 766 F.Supp. 707, 711 (S.D.Ind., 1990).

The Court concludes that there is no legitimate basis for Plaintiff to seek the disqualification of the undersigned judge. The motion to recuse thus fails under § 455(a)(1) because the circumstances reviewed above do not demonstrate an objectively reasonable basis for questioning this judge’s impartiality.

Based on the foregoing, the Plaintiff’s Motion for Recusal ([Filing No. 29](#)) is **DENIED**.

SO ORDERED.

Date: 11/5/2014



Hon. Tanya Walton Pratt, Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of Indiana

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